

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's comments and rejection of various of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, as amended, is earnestly solicited.

Applicants gratefully note the Examiner's indication that with the exception of various formal grounds of rejection, the claims are deemed to be in substantial order for allowance, and if various of the claims are being amended in formal respects and other claims are cancelled as being redundant, allowance of the application can be expected.

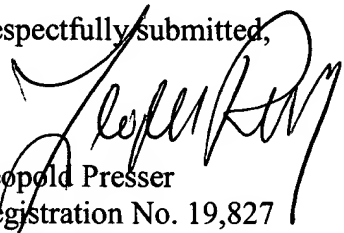
Accordingly, in order to meet the Examiner's requirements to the fullest extent, applicants have cancelled claims 69 through 74, without prejudice or disclaimer, and also implemented amendments to the remaining claims to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In this connection, the grammatical sentence has been amended in Claim 50 and the aspects with regard to the lock elements on the substrate have been corrected to indicate that these are only inferentially claimed and not a component of the actual stamp device, which was the subject matter of the cousin invention.

Accordingly, inasmuch as the applicants have fully complied with the Examiner's requirements in amending the claims, and on the basis of the indicated allowability of the subject matter thereof, the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully request that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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